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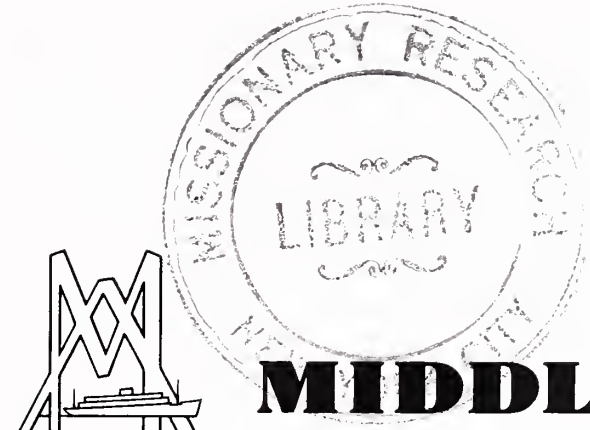

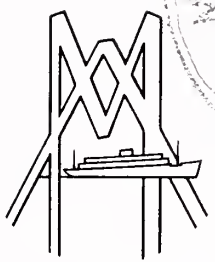

MIDDLE AMERICA

A DIGEST ALMANAC OF ITS ELEVEN REPUBLICS

CUBA
HAITI
DOM. REP.
MEXICO
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
PANAMA
COLOMBIA

MIDDLE AMERICA

A Digest Almanac of its Eleven Republics

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FOREWORD

THIS BOOKLET attempts briefly and accurately to present up-to-date information about the eleven nations of Middle America, *i.e.*, Mexico; the Central American republics of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama; Colombia; and the Caribbean republics of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

The booklet also highlights the past, present, and future importance of Middle America to the United States by presenting impartial data illustrating the vital interdependency of the United States and our eleven neighbor nations.

The Interdependence of Middle America and the United States

Middle America has always been close to us geographically. It seems destined to become equally close economically, politically, and culturally. The extent to which these relations develop depends, however, on the growth of our mutual knowledge and common understanding. As one of its contributions to such development, the United Fruit Company, veteran operator of farm properties and communication and transportation services in Central America and other Caribbean nations, maintains the Middle America Information Bureau for the impartial presentation of facts about Middle America and its importance to the United States.

The Scope of Interdependence

The eleven nations of Middle America are our partners in trade and hemispheric solidarity. Middle America wants the goods and commodities we produce. The agricultural exports of Middle America, essential to us, do not compete with crops grown in the United States. Many of these crops have long been grown in Middle America; others were developed as a result of war-time stimulus.

The United States is particularly dependent on Middle America for our supplies of the following crops:

1. At least 95% of our supply of *bananas*, a staple, popular, and highly nutritious fruit.
2. *Coffee*, grown in all Middle American nations. The total coffee crop of all these countries (9,020,000 bags in the fiscal year 1946-47) is second only to that of Brazil (13,965,000 bags). Middle American coffees are famous for their fine qualities; many are preferred "flavor grades".

3. Natural *rubber.* Both wild and cultivated rubber-bearing plants are now being harvested in many Middle American areas.

4. *Abaca,* a banana-like plant whose fiber is used to make Manila rope.

5. *Cacao* (cocoa and chocolate), an important food beverage. The cacao tree is indigenous to Middle America, which produces a substantial part of the world's supply.

6. *Sugar.* Cuba is described accurately as "sugar bowl for the world", and most of the other Middle American countries have substantial domestic plantings of sugar cane.

In addition to these six staple crops, Middle America is a potential source of many other tropical products greatly needed by the United States; some of them are already being produced in quantity. They include:

1. *Quinine.*

2. *Rotenone,* one of the most valuable of insecticide materials.

3. *Palm oils,* used in soaps, cosmetics, candies, special lubricants and hundreds of other commodities.

4. *Tung oil,* a basic ingredient for quick-drying paints and varnishes.

5. *Castor oil,* a staple medicine and a lubricant for many types of machinery.

6. Such tropical drugs as *ipecac* and *senna.*

7. Essential oils such as *citronella, lemon grass oil* and *vetiver,* used in the manufacture of menthols, perfumes, insect sprays, etc.

8. *Cork.*

9. *Kapok,* or tree cotton, a lighter-than-cotton fiber harvested from the ceiba tree, used as a filling material.

10. *Teakwood,* a standard wood for ship decking and heretofore imported exclusively from the Eastern Hemisphere.

11. Several indispensable *vegetable fibers,* including sisal, jute, jute substitutes, and henequen used in the manufacture of cordage, bagging and binder twine.

12. *Spices,* including ginger and vanilla, and *natural dyes.*

OUR TRADE WITH MIDDLE AMERICA

The most conspicuous and important fact about Middle American trade is that it has been, is, and can remain preponderantly with the United States. On a proportionate per capita basis, Middle Americans are the best beyond-national-boundaries customers of the United States. Trade figures for 1940, for instance, the last year in which the Western Hemisphere was at peace, graphically illustrate the commercial interdependence between Middle America and the United States:

1940

Country	Exports	Imports	Total	Percent of Total Foreign Trade with the United States: Exports	Imports
MEXICO	$177,800,000	$123,902,000	$301,702,000	89.5	78.8
GUATEMALA	12,039,000	12,667,000	24,706,000	91.0	73.8
EL SALVADOR	12,228,000	8,108,000	20,336,000	75.2	67.4
HONDURAS	9,658,000	10,085,000	19,743,000	95.6	62.7
NICARAGUA	9,494,000	7,052,000	16,546,000	94.2	84.0
COSTA RICA	7,484,000	16,840,000	24,324,000	58.8	75.0
PANAMA	6,826,000	20,464,000	27,290,000	43.8	58.2
COLOMBIA	71,942,000	84,588,000	156,530,000	60.1	71.4
CUBA	127,288,000	103,860,000	231,148,000	82.4	78.0
HAITI	5,399,000	7,940,000	13,339,000	51.6	72.6
DOMINICAN REPUB.	18,330,000	10,511,000	28,841,000	24.7	66.4
	$458,488,000	$406,017,000	$864,505,000		

During that year, slightly more than half (52.7%) of all goods imported into the 20 Latin American nations was produced in the United States, while about 44% of all Latin American goods was sold in the United States. The relative figures for Middle America, as can be seen, were conspicuously higher: on an overall average they bought about *three-fourths* (74.1%) of all their imports from us and sold us about *four-fifths* (82%) of all their exports.

Today, the extent of this economic interdependence is even more impressive than in 1940. The dollar value of Middle American exports to the United States rose from approximately $375,960,160 in 1940 to $834,805,925 in 1946, although instead of receiving 82% of their exports, we bought only 68%. Middle American imports from the United States rose to 79% in 1946 (excluding the Dominican Republic, for which figures are not available), attaining a dollar value of $933,406,397. At right are the trade figures for 1946.

It should be emphasized that the key factor of United States trade with Middle America is its non-competitiveness. Middle America buys from us those goods we are eager to sell in return for basic tropical or sub-tropical commodities we cannot produce in the United States and therefore must find beyond our borders.

1946

Country	Exports	Imports	Total	Percent of Total Foreign Trade with the United States: Exports	Imports
MEXICO	$404,075,000	$543,178,000	$947,253,000	72.9	83.6
GUATEMALA	36,679,000	36,204,000	72,883,000	86.5	67.7
EL SALVADOR	26,152,000	21,136,000	47,288,000	71.4	70.7
HONDURAS(a)	14,109,000	19,576,000	33,685,000	75.0	73.5
NICARAGUA	18,082,000	14,989,000	33,071,000	78.2	76.0
COSTA RICA	14,172,000	29,895,000	(c)	72.8	76.4(b)
PANAMA	6,792,000	27,434,000(d)	(c)	75.9	73.7
COLOMBIA	137,481,000(e)	167,407,000(e)	304,888,000(e)	81.3(e)	72.5(e)
CUBA	475,864,000	307,247,000	783,111,000	67.4	76.8
HAITI(g)	22,823,000	15,922,000	38,745,000	62.0	86.0
DOMINICAN REPUB.	64,792,000	15,200,000(f)	(c)	18.5	(c)
	$1,221,021,000	$1,198,188,000			

a) Fiscal year ending June 30; (b) data for January-November only; (c) not available; (d) data for January-June only; (e) data for January-September only; (f) data for January-August only; (g) fiscal year ending September 30.

The export trade with Middle America is in manufactured products, both durable and consumer goods. Among the more important items of this trade are automobiles and trucks, machinery, electrical goods and supplies, medical products, newsprint, cardboard and other paper products, iron and steel, cement, gasoline, metal pipe, railway supplies, cotton fabric, yarn and thread, wool and woolen goods, rubber tires, industrial chemicals, rayon and other specialized fibers, cellulose materials, tin plate, lubricating oils, radios, livestock (principally breeding animals), shoes and leather goods, and staple foods such as lard and compounds, flour, canned goods, rice and dried fish.

Since the war (in which all the Middle American countries were our allies), our trade with Middle America has steadily increased in variety. More and more of the lost resources of the Eastern tropics have been discovered or were caused to materialize within the lands of the Caribbean. As we absorb more of Middle America's foodstuffs, lumber, minerals, and chemicals, these countries in turn provide a continuously growing market for the

United States. There is every reason to expect that this two-way trade will continue to expand with increasing steamship and air service.

Middle American Agriculture

Now, as in the past and most probably for many years to come, agriculture is the basic resource of the Middle American countries. Each of these eleven nations can be regarded as an agricultural laboratory. Within Middle America have originated such important crops as corn, tobacco, peanuts, beans, peas, various melons, white potatoes, chocolate, vanilla, Hevea (tree rubber), rotenone, the cinchona tree whose bark provides quinine, and others which have helped to mold world history.

The story of Middle American agriculture is one of the future as well as of the present and the past. The lands of Middle America have great variations in rainfall, terrain, and mean temperatures, and much of the richest soil in the world today. Within Central America, Mexico, and the Antilles can be grown practically every tropical crop known to mankind and a great variety of temperate-zone staples, including corn, cereal grains, green vegetables, potatoes, valuable grasses and legumes, and most of the fiber crops. This list is continually growing.

The lands of Middle America stretch from the deep tropics to the temperate subtropics. They include rich alluvial valleys, productive clay lands and enormously fertile volcanic soils. They include lush grasslands, highlands, deserts, and cool damp mountaintops; hot lowland jungles which are fabulously crowded with plant life; valuable forests with countless varieties of trees and plants, including several of the more valuable palm trees; and beautiful wildflowers ranging from exquisite native orchids to giant poinsettias. The plant life census of Middle America probably exceeds any other in the world. The fauna is likewise of such varied types and great numbers as always to have attracted the attention of naturalists.

Middle American agriculture is one of the oldest in the world. It was the foundation for the pre-Columbian Indian empires, the powerful and highly civilized states of the Maya, Quiche and Aztec. In modern times the area has come to produce many diversified crops, such as indigo (at one time the most coveted of vegetable dye materials); coffee (which is now the world's greatest orchard crop); bananas (the most popular of tropical fruits—normal United States consumption is between 50 and 60 million bunches per year); sugar cane (the island of Cuba, comparable in area to the state of Louisiana, has grown five million tons of sugar in a single year and could conceivably double that amount). Middle America now grows almost a fourth of the world's supply of cocoa, and a large share of its vanilla, ginger, coconut, palm oils, pineapples and spices. In addition, its verdant and fertile lands produce hundreds of edible fruits, vegetable crops, many valuable herbs and medicinal plants.

But however varied it has been in the past, Middle American agriculture must now be appraised in terms of the present and the future. With the outbreak of war in the Pacific began the world's most widespread and significant agricultural migration. Many key crops were moved from the war-blasted Pacific tropics to the near-at-hand and readily defensible lands of Middle America.

Inter-American Highway

The Inter-American Highway, to link all the mainland countries of Middle America with the United States, was first projected in 1924, the general plan for such a road being worked out five years later. Each of the countries began working separately on its own part of the Highway, and by 1936 Mexico had completed paving the section from Nuevo Laredo (just

across the border from Laredo, Texas) to Mexico City.

The war speeded construction of the highway, which became of strategic importance; immediately after Pearl Harbor the U. S. Congress appropriated $20,000,000 to be expended for closing the gaps in the overland route from the United States to the Panama Canal. Except for the long stretch between Mexico City and the border of Guatemala, most of the Inter-American Highway as far south as San Jose, Costa Rica, was open to motor traffic before the end of 1945.

However, the route will not be an all-paved, first-class road for some time to come, as several gaps which have to be bypassed by rail or sea remain to be closed. In Colombia, at Bogotá, the Highway branches off, one section leading north into Venezuela, the other south into Ecuador and on down through Peru to the southernmost part of Chile.

Still in the discussion stage is a project for extending the Inter-American Highway system to the island republics of Middle America. By means of ferries connecting terminal points, travelers would be enabled, under this plan, to go from Key West to Havana, drive to the eastern tip of Cuba, then cross to Haiti, and after driving through that country and the Dominican Republic, take another ferry to Puerto Rico. A ferry capable of bearing cars from the western end of Cuba to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula is also under consideration, and in fact the Mexican Government has already surveyed a route which will link Yucatan with the main Inter-American Highway.

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This booklet is the result of careful research among the most valid sources of information available on Middle America. In every case where figures differed—populations of the various nations concerned, for example—an effort was made to give the most recent reliable figure. The major reference works consulted are listed at the back of this booklet.

MEXICO

Population—22,000,000 (1947 estimate)

Area—758,258 square miles, approximately the combined size of Texas, Oregon, California, Washington, Idaho and Utah.

Capital—Mexico City (pop.: 1,448,422; alt.: 7,347 feet), one of the Western Hemisphere's oldest cities and one of the world's most beautiful. Architecture ranges from Spanish-Baroque to the most modern style. The city is situated on the southern extremity of the vast central plateau of Anáhuac.

Geography—Mexico is bounded on the north by the United States, on the east by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, on the southeast by British Honduras and Guatemala, and on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean. The west coast is indented by the Gulf of California (739 miles long; maximum width: 190 miles), which separates the largely-barren 760-mile-long Peninsula of Lower California from the mainland and gives Mexico a 4,438-mile western coastline (eastern coastline: 1,774 miles).

Two mountain ranges, the Eastern and Western Sierra Madres, traverse Mexico from northwest to southeast. The western chain tends to parallel the Pacific Coast, but turns eastward at Colima and then southward to form the "backbone" of Central America. The eastern chain runs down almost to Vera Cruz near the Gulf Coast. Between these lie plateaus 5,000 to 8,000 feet high, the largest of which is Anáhuac. In addition there are hot, fertile valleys, alluvial floodplains and rich pockets of lowland.

Because of the terrain, the climate is extremely varied, from hot, lowland tropics to subtropical foothills which lead upward

to plateaus and mountainsides where temperatures are of temperate-zone range.

Resources—Mexico's greatest sources of wealth are its mines and petroleum deposits. Mexico is the leading world producer of silver (1939 to 1943 average annual production: 81,000,000 fine ounces, nearly 35% of the world total). Other important minerals found in Mexico are gold, copper, lead, zinc, antimony, mercury, arsenic, amorphous graphite, molybdenum, coal and opal. Mexico ranks seventh as a world oil producer, its ouput totaling about 40,000,000 barrels per year. Petroleum products include fuel oil, gas oil, gasoline, asphalt, kerosene, heavy crude petroleum and lubricants.

Mexican manufacturing is slight, the greatest advances being made in textile spinning and weaving.

A 15,000-mile railroad network unites the centers of industry and population and connects Mexico with its neighbors, the United States and Guatemala.

In spite of Mexico's mineral wealth, 76% of the working population is engaged in agriculture. Thirty-six million acres are devoted to a wide variety of crops, the most important of which is corn (annual average production 1939-1943: 2,000,000 tons). Frijoles (beans), garbanzos (chick-peas), cotton, wheat, bananas, coffee, chicle, tomatoes and lettuce are major products. Fifty percent of the world's supply of henequen fiber, indispensable in binder-twine manufacture, comes from the Yucatan Peninsula area.

One hundred sixty-four million acres are used for cattle-raising. In 1940 there were more than 11,500,000 head of cattle in the country.

Of 44,000,000 acres of forests, 25,000,000 consist of fine spruce, cedar, mahogany, rosewood and logwood.

Mexico ships most of its henequen, chicle and banana exports to the United States, more than half of its coffee, and considerable quantities of winter tomatoes, lettuce and peas. Petroleum product exports have dropped from one-half to one-fifth of the total produced during the last decade due to the increase in domestic consumption. Of Mexico's total exports, about 72.9% goes to the U.S.

Mexico's principal imports include wheat, iron and steel manufactures, tractors, pharmaceutical supplies, corn, alkaline cyanide, generators and telephone apparatus. Approximately four-fifths of these imports come from the U.S.

The peso is the monetary unit with an exchange value of 20.7¢ U.S. (1947).

Government—Mexico is a Federal Republic of 28 states, each having a large measure of home rule and with a governor, legislature and judiciary elected by universal suffrage in general elections. There are also three territories, the governors of which are appointed and may be removed by the President, and a Federal District of Mexico City which is governed by federal commissioners. The President, who is elected by popular vote for a term of six years with reelection prohibited, appoints a Cabinet of eleven secretaries who are responsible to him and may be dismissed by him.

Legislative power is vested in a Congress consisting of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. Senators are elected by popular vote to a six-year term, two from each state. Deputies are elected for a three-year term on a representative basis (one for every 100,000 inhabitants). Neither is eligible for reelection for the following term.

Judicial power is vested in the 21-member Supreme Court (ministers), the circuit courts (magistrates), and the district courts (judges). The Senate elects the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court appoints the magistrates and judges of the circuit and district courts.

General—The Mexican people can be divided roughly into three racial groups: white (10%), Indian (30%), and mestizo, or mixed (60%). The whites are mostly of European, largely Spanish, descent, with

a sprinkling of U.S. nationals. The mestizos are descendants of Indians and Spaniards, with the Indian blood as the dominant strain. Mexico is a storehouse of Indian culture and skills, and yet it is amazingly cosmopolitan, too, showing traces of the cultures of Spain, France, Britain and other nations.

Mexico has contributed much to our knowledge of ancient Mayan civilization. A handful of Lacandone Indians, direct descendants of the ancient Maya, were found only a few years ago by the archaeologist Giles Greville Healey, who lived with them and eventually persuaded them to lead him, in late 1946, through virgin jungles to the site of Bonampak in eastern Chiapas. The United Fruit Company financed the Healey expedition, which located 37 temples dating back to the period between 495 and 672 A.D. The majority of the temples—which constitute some of the most important remains of Mayan civilization recently discovered—are in an excellent state of preservation, many of their interior walls being covered with paintings in bright reds, yellows, ochres, greens and blues showing almost life-size figures of Mayan warriors and priests in full ceremonial costumes. The name Bonampak, incidentally, is Mayan for "painted walls".

Indian civilization was highly developed at the time of the Spanish invasion (1519). The Spanish superimposed their ideas and concepts on this new world framework, using the many trained artisans which the Indian culture had produced to execute their own art and architectural projects. The Indian influence, however, was too strong to remain submerged permanently, and Mexico's rich folk culture today is a result of the gradual blending of Indian and Spanish tradition.

Mexico's turbulent history during and after the struggle for independence has had a marked effect upon its culture today. Especially since the Revolution of 1910, there has been a strong nationalistic flavor in every form of artistic expression.

Spanish is the official language of Mexico.

Mexico grants full religious freedom to churches of all creeds. The majority of Mexicans belong to the Roman Catholic church.

The University of Mexico was established in Mexico City in 1551, 85 years before the founding of Harvard. Today in Mexico, education is free and compulsory up to the age of 15. Special emphasis is placed on rural education, with more than 17,000 rural schools on the primary level already established. Vocational instruction, particularly in agriculture, is being promoted.

Mexico is still carrying on the intensive campaign against illiteracy which, by presidential decree, required every literate person between the ages of 18 and 60 to teach at least one illiterate fellow citizen to read and write between March 1, 1945 and March 1, 1946.

GUATEMALA

Population—3,450,732
(1943 estimate)

Area—48,290 square miles. (The area of Pennsylvania is 45,333 square miles.)

Capital—Guatemala City (pop.: 185,896; alt.: 4,880 feet) is situated in a beautiful mountain valley, and has the excellent climate of the tropical highlands. The city is almost entirely modern, having been rebuilt according to new specifications after the disastrous earthquakes of 1917-18.

Geography—Mexico borders Guatemala on the west and north, and British Honduras and the Gulf of Honduras form the eastern boundary. The lower inland

border, running from northeast to southwest, is bounded by Honduras and El Salvador, and the Pacific Ocean washes Guatemala's southern shore.

The harbor of Puerto Barrios, slightly under 1,000 miles due south of New Orleans, is located on the Gulf of Honduras, which has a 70-mile coastline. The Pacific coastline is about 200 miles long; San Jose is its largest port.

The volcanic mountains of the Sierra Madres range rise sheerly from the narrow Pacific coastal plain and cross the country from northwest to southeast, extending into the central part of Guatemala. The country is divided roughly into five regions: the lowlands of the Pacific coast; the mountains of the Sierra Madres, which form the main watershed between the Pacific and Caribbean lowlands; the highland valleys and plateaus; the mountains of the Caribbean littoral; and the great tropical lowland plains of Peten. The mountains, together with the intervening valleys and plateaus, comprise about two-thirds of the total area of Guatemala.

The country is well watered with short rapid streams that flow down the steep Pacific slopes and with more navigable rivers on the Caribbean side. Most important commercially among the latter are the Motagua (250 miles long), the Polochic (180 miles long), and the short, deep Rio Dulce, the outlet for Lake Izabal at Livingston. There are several large lakes, excellent farm and pasture lands, and extensive forests.

The bird and forest life of Guatemala is remarkably rich; in the plain of Peten, for example, the thick luxuriant jungles swarm with chattering monkeys and green parrots.

Temperature varies with the altitude, ranging from 77° to 86° in the lowlands, and averaging 68° in the highlands, 59° in the mountains. Guatemala has two seasons, the rainy (May to November), and the dry (November to May).

Resources—Guatemala, rich in fertile land, is primarily agricultural. Its forest area has been little touched, and its mineral resources—gold, silver, tin, copper, chromite and mercury—are still largely unexploited.

Guatemala's major crops are corn, coffee, bananas, sugar, beans and wheat, with corn—the staple article of diet—the most important.

Guatemala's industrial development was given some impetus during World War II when imports were curtailed, but so far the expansion has been slight. Most of Guatemala's manufactured products are for home consumption.

The International Railway of Central America, a system 652 miles long, connects Guatemala City with the principal seaports and with Mexico and El Salvador. There are also several lesser railroads in operation. Guatemala has 4,200 miles of fine highways which traverse the country. The Inter-American Highway runs 301 miles through Guatemala along a scenic mountain route.

Among Guatemala's major exports are coffee, bananas, chicle, lumber, hides and essential oils. Guatemala's coffee, noted for its mildness and flavor, leads all other exports in value and is the cornerstone of the economy. In the period from 1940-42, 85% of this coffee went to the United States. According to the latest trade figures, 86.5% of Guatemala's total exports was bought by the United States, while 67.7% of its imports (machinery, textiles, petroleum products, paper and motor vehicles) came from this country.

The quetzal is the monetary unit with an exchange value of $1.00 U.S. (1947).

Government—The present constitution was adopted in March of 1945. It provides for the election, by direct vote, of a President who cannot run again until 12 years after the completion of his six-year term. The legislative power is vested in a Congress, each deputy of which represents 50,000 inhabitants and is elected to serve for four years.

A Cabinet of seven members assists the President. Authority over both the Supreme Court and the national police force, and over the lower courts besides, is given to the Minister of Government and Justice. All literate male citizens over 18 with regular means of support have the right to vote in Guatemalan elections.

General – About 55% of the population is of Indian stock, with most of the remainder of mixed white and Indian blood. There are a few whites, mostly of Spanish descent, and Negroes. Large numbers of the Indian population are more nearly aboriginal in habits and life than those of perhaps any other section of North or South America, retaining their tribal customs, languages and dress.

City life is far different from its counterpart in the United States. The pace is more leisurely, even though work begins earlier in the day, for everyone goes home for luncheon and a nap at noon. Homes are usually larger than in the United States, and apartments are almost unknown.

Spanish is the official language of Guatemala.

During the first 1,000 years of the Christian era, the Mayan civilization flourished in Guatemala, and much of our knowledge of the Maya comes from excavations in this area. The United Fruit Company, with the approval of the Guatemalan government, began work early in 1946 on the restoration of Zaculeu, one-time capital of the Mam Maya Kingdom, the oldest buildings of which were erected during the sixth century of the Christian era.

Whether the first Zaculeans were of Mayan blood is still uncertain, but relics unearthed by United Fruit's archaeologists indicate that they traded extensively with the Indians of central and eastern Mexico, and also with the "classic" Maya living in Guatemala to the north and east of Huehuetenango.

In Guatemala, as in Mexico, traditional Indian culture was so deeply-rooted in the individual artist-craftsman that it survived the three centuries of Spanish domination. After the bloodless revolution of 1821, Guatemalan folk-art emerged again, conditioned to some extent by the Spanish influence, but with an instinctive integrity that has persisted until today. Excellent modern examples of Indian art-craft include wood-carving and painting, basket-weaving and textile designs.

The Guatemalan Indian always has been extremely receptive to music. After other methods had failed, Spanish priests succeeded in winning converts to Christianity by interesting them in religious chants. Popular urban music today revolves around the waltz and the mazurka, Spanish importations, but the traditional Indian dances are only slightly colored by the formal Spanish patterns and retain their pre-Columbian character.

Contemporary plastic art and literature are undergoing a quiet, but intense, revival in Guatemala today. The vigor and the productiveness of this movement have excited international interest among art enthusiasts. By way of practical encouragement, the United Fruit Company recently awarded a commission for six landscapes to the well-known Guatemalan artist Humberto Garavito, who undertook to do the paintings on the 3500-acre farm of the Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Honduras.

Religious tolerance is the rule in Guatemala. The majority of Guatemalans belong to the Roman Catholic church.

About 10% of the national budget is spent on education, which is compulsory between the ages of seven and 14. The state maintains 2,433 urban and rural primary schools. Students completing the primary school course of six years are eligible for the secondary school course (four years). This may be followed by a one-year preparatory course which opens the way for attendance at the University of Guatemala. The University was founded in Antigua in 1676.

EL SALVADOR

Population—2,200,000
(1946 estimate)

Area—13,176 square miles. (The combined area of Massachusetts and Connecticut is 13,266 square miles.)

Capital—San Salvador (pop.: 112,254; alt.: 2,238 ft.) is a beautiful city noted for its many parks and handsome Spanish and modern buildings. Lying in the pleasant, semi-tropical valley of Las Hamacas, it is the commercial center of El Salvador, with rail or highway connections to all other towns of importance.

Geography—El Salvador is bounded on the north and east by Honduras, on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the north by Guatemala. The Pacific coastline is about 160 miles long, with three main ports (La Libertad, Acajutla, and La Unión) which are the principal means of entry into the country. El Salvador does not extend to the Caribbean Sea.

Two mountain ranges cross El Salvador from west to east, one in the southern portion paralleling the Pacific coast and the other along the northern border. An extensive inland plateau lies between, broken at intervals by the Lempa River Valley and other smaller river valleys. The western and central sections are elevated and hilly; in the east, the tableland descends into lowlands. A narrow, low strip of land from 10 to 15 miles wide lies between the coastal range and the Pacific Ocean. There are about 360 non-navigable rivers, two of which—the Lempa and the Rio Grande de San Miguel—traverse the largest of the fertile valleys.

Although El Salvador is wholly within the tropics, the climate varies from tropical in the lowlands to semi-tropical in the plateau and upper valley areas, and temperate on the higher mountain slopes. The seasons are: rainy, from June to October, and dry, from November to May.

Resources—The density of population in El Salvador has resulted in an intensity of land utilization and cultivation. The country is predominantly agricultural with corn the largest crop and major food item, and coffee the most important money crop. "Balsam of Peru", a product obtained from a tree indigenous to El Salvador and misnamed in early colonial days, is an important ingredient in medicinal and cosmetic preparations.

Gold and silver are mined commercially, but rich deposits of copper, iron, lead, lignite, quartz, platinum, sulphur and zinc are exploited only to a very limited extent.

Most of El Salvador's industry is on a small scale, and is concerned with the processing of coffee, sugar refining, cotton and flour milling, and making henequen bags.

The country has 385 miles of track owned by two railroads, one connecting with the Guatemalan harbor of Puerto Barrios. An extensive road network reaches all the productive regions. In 1942, there were 3,668 miles of highways of which about 46% were improved.

El Salvador has usually had a favorable balance of foreign trade. In 1944, exports accounted for 65% of all foreign trade and imports amounted to 35%. Coffee, the leading export, accounted for 84% of all exports during the same year. The country's best customer is the United States, which took 71.4% of all exports in 1946. Most of El Salvador's imports such as textiles, foodstuffs, chemicals and pharmaceuticals come from the United States (70.7% in 1946), with Mexico, Guatemala and Great Britain next in importance as suppliers.

The colon is the basic monetary unit with an exchange value of 49¢ U.S. (1947).

Government—The President of El Salvador is elected for a four-year term and may not succeed himself. The legislative body is the National Assembly of Deputies, which meets twice a year. Three Deputies and two alternates are elected from each of the 14 departments, with no bar to reelection. Each department with more than 150,000 population may elect another Deputy and alternate for each additional 50,000. All men over 18 years of age, except the military and those without their civil rights, are required to vote. Married women over 25, unmarried women over 30, and professional women over 21, are allowed to vote.

The President is assisted by a five-man Cabinet. One of these portfolios, the Ministry of the Interior, is responsible for the administration of justice and establishment of courts of first instance in the district capitals, with the concurrence of the Supreme Court.

The present constitution, an amended version of the Constitution of 1886, was adopted by a Constituent Assembly in November, 1945.

General—About 20% of the population is of Indian stock, the rest being white or mestizo (mixed white and Indian blood). A few of the Indian tribes still retain many of their old traditions and dress. The average density of population was estimated at 144 per square mile in 1944, about the same as the state of Illinois, and second only to Haiti among the American republics.

The language of El Salvador is Spanish.

Here, as in Guatemala, the traditional Indian culture withstood the period of Spanish domination, and the decorative arts re-emerged at about the time El Salvador's first independent constitution was adopted in 1824. National artists and craftsmen have since produced striking and colorful examples of textile designs, decorated gourds and toys, and woven straw.

Salvadorean literature has developed remarkably from the early Indian legends and melancholy songs to a strong modernism in poetry and prose. Art and music still have deep roots in the native traditions, which are reflected in the decorative styles and brilliant colors of the paintings, the popularity of the old folk dances, and the use of Indian themes in modern compositions.

The magnificent colonial churches, known for their Renaissance structure and baroque details, have aroused additional interest because of their simplicity and charm. The only native architectural influences are low roofs and massive walls which were developed as a protection against earthquakes.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed to the people by the Constitution. Most Salvadoreans belong to the Roman Catholic church.

A national school program is directed by an Under Secretary of Education in the Ministry of Culture. The importance of public education to the country is indicated by the size of the appropriation for the national school program, which amounted to 17% of the national budget in 1946. Primary instruction is compulsory, after which students may continue their education in three types of secondary schools: science and letters, normal, and business. In 1944, El Salvador had 33 kindergartens, 1,376 primary schools, and 30 normal and business schools. Science and letters students complete a five-year course, after which they may enter the National University of El Salvador. The University had its beginning in the Colegio de la Asuncion, which was authorized by the Constitution of 1841.

HONDURAS

Population—1,500,000 (1947 estimate)

Area—46,332 square miles. (The area of Pennsylvania is 45,333 square miles.)

Capital—Tegucigalpa (pop.: 47,223; alt.: 3,200 feet), one of the most picturesque American capitals. Located on an inland plateau against a background of tree-covered mountains, it has many modern buildings, as well as churches and private houses dating from colonial times. Tegucigalpa has no railroad connections, but airlines and good highways link it with the outside world.

Geography—Honduras is bounded on the north and northeast by the Caribbean Sea; on the southeast and south by Nicaragua and the Gulf of Fonesca; and on the southwest and west by El Salvador and Guatemala. The Caribbean coastline is 400 miles long, with four major ports: Puerto Cortes, Ceiba, Tela and Trujillo. The Gulf of Fonesca washes about 50 miles of southern coastline. Amapala (an island) is the principal port on the Gulf, which leads to the Pacific Ocean.

Honduras is extremely mountainous, with the main ranges extending from the northwest to the north, northeast, and south. The country is divided generally into the Caribbean flood plains area; high, rugged, inland mountains; and fertile, heavily wooded valleys, plateaus, and shelflands. Numerous rivers cross the country, from the lush valleys that cut into the high southern mountains to the Caribbean. Some of the world's richest soils are found in the plateaus and valleys that lie between the mountain ranges.

The climate and temperature of Honduras vary with the altitude from hot and humid on the coastal belt to mild and temperate in the mountains. The average temperature in the lowlands is about 88°, and on the plateaus and mountains above 2,500 feet, about 73°. The rainy season runs from May to the middle of November, with the heaviest rains falling along the western Caribbean coast.

Resources—Honduras is predominantly agricultural with great possibilities for development that are handicapped by the lack of suitable transportation. Corn is the most important local food item, but bananas are the largest money crop. This fruit grows wild in most of the tropical parts of Honduras, but it is cultivated commercially along a 60 to 70-mile strip of fertile land in the Caribbean coastal area. Near the country's most important river, the Ulua, there are about 60 square miles of modern banana plantations which are completely equipped mechanically for irrigation and plant disease control. Coffee and coconuts are next in importance as commercial crops, followed by tobacco, copra and wheat. The Tela Railroad, a subsidiary of the United Fruit Company, maintains experimental and transplantation farms on the northern coast, where tropical plants from all over the world are studied with a view to introducing them locally. In 1940, the Honduran and United States governments established a cooperative rubber station as a center for Hevea rubber planting.

Honduras is rich in forests, with great reservoirs of its world famous mahogany and huge amounts of balsa, ceiba, lignum-vitae, cedar, mountain pine, and other valuable woods. Much of the timber in accessible places has been cut, but protective measures, reforestation, and new roads to the inland areas are expected to place the lumber industry on a sounder basis.

The mineral wealth of Honduras is extensive, but there has been only limited commercial development. At the famous Rosario mine at San Juancito, which has been producing gold and silver for 65 years, the latest machinery and equipment are utilized. Other mines operating on

a smaller scale include some which were worked in Spanish times. Indians, using primitive methods of washing and panning, are said to produce between $75,000 and $125,000 worth of gold a year from the river beds.

Inland transportation and communications in Honduras depend to a considerable extent on the larger rivers. However, highways are being extended into the inland areas to support their agricultural and industrial development. The Honduran section of the Inter-American Highway runs southeastward through the country for 95 miles. A well-developed air transport system connects most of the country's centers, and provides air service to most of the Middle American capitals. Honduras has only three main railroads at present but considerable expansion of the railway system is planned. The 88-mile, government-owned National Railway connects Puerto Cortes with the 215-mile Inter-Ocean Highway. The other two lines are privately owned and have a total of 564 miles of track connecting the banana plantations with the Caribbean ports.

Bananas, as the number one export, accounted for 48.5% of all products shipped out of the country in 1943-44. Silver shipments were next in importance and amounted to about 15% of the total exports. Gold, the third largest export item, accounted for less than eight percent of the export trade that year. Imports into the country are for the most part finished goods and manufactured products (69% in 1943-44). The total foreign trade in 1943-44 amounted to $22,810,-541, of which $9,462,533 were exports, and $13,348,008 were imports. Seventy-five percent of Honduras' exports came to the United States in 1946. This country supplied 73.5% of Honduras' imports. The monetary unit of Honduras is the lempira, equal to 49.02¢ U.S. (1947).

Government–The constitution, which went into effect in April, 1936, guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, industry and commerce. The federal government consists of a Congress of Deputies, a President, and a Supreme Court. One Deputy and one alternate are elected for a six-year term for every 25,000 inhabitants.

The President and Vice President are elected by popular vote for six years. When there is no absolute majority for a candidate, the Congress elects the President or Vice President from the two candidates for either office who received the greatest number of votes. The President appoints a Cabinet of from four to seven members to head the 15 governmental departments.

The Supreme Court, consisting of five magistrates and three alternates elected by the Congress for six-year terms, appoints the magistrates and judges of the lower courts. The right to vote in Honduras is limited to men over 21, or over 18 if married and able to read and write.

General—About 10% of the Honduran population is of Indian stock, most of the balance being of mixed white and Indian blood. Whites and Negroes make up about four percent of the total. Many of the Indian tribes still wear the traditional dress, practice the old tribal customs, and speak their different aboriginal languages. The Negroes are located generally on the north coast where they are employed on the fruit plantations.

The language of Honduras is Spanish.

Honduras' great contribution to our knowledge of the Mayan civilization is the ruins of the ancient city of Copan, near the Guatemalan border. This city, which had its heyday about 500 A.D., is believed to have been destroyed in 1530 by one of Alvarado's lieutenants. From August 14, 1502, when Columbus discovered the mainland of America at Cape Honduras during his fourth and last voyage, until the bloodless revolution of 1821, the country was under Spanish domination. Since then, however, there has been impressive work in literature, music and the

arts based on an interesting adaptation of native and Spanish traditions to modern musical instruments and art forms. The government-sponsored National School of Fine Arts, established in 1940, has done much to improve the work in applied arts, ceramics, decoration, drawing and painting, sculpture and wood carving.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution. The prevailing religion is Roman Catholicism.

The Ministry of Education, one of the portfolios in the President's Cabinet, directs the educational system throughout Honduras. Primary education, which is free and compulsory between the ages of seven and 15, is provided in 1,064 primary schools. There are also 18 secondary schools, a vocational school for girls, and the Central University of Honduras. In addition, the government supports special trade schools for adults and educational missions to serve isolated communities.

The fame of Honduras' 3,500-acre Escuela Agricola Panamericana, endowed by the United Fruit Company in 1941, has spread to the four corners of the earth, applications for enrollment having been received from as far away as Palestine and India. Enrollment is limited, however, to approximately 175 Middle American students between the ages of 17 and 20. It is hoped that students, upon graduation, will take up the teaching of modern agricultural science in schools of their native countries, or otherwise engage in disseminating among fellow farmers the knowledge gained at the school.

NICARAGUA

Population—1,013,946 (1942 estimate)

Area—57,143 square miles. (The area of Michigan is 57,022 square miles.)

Capital—Managua (pop.: 118,448; alt.: 200 feet), beautiful and modern, is located on the southern shore of Lake Managua. The city was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1931. Since then, it has been rebuilt with attractive, reinforced buildings, wide, paved streets, and lush parks.

Geography—Nicaragua is bounded on the north by Honduras, on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the south by Costa Rica, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The Caribbean coastline is about 300 miles long; the Pacific coastline about 200. The country is divided by the main cordillera which runs from southeast to the northwest, almost parallel with the Pacific coast. Near the Honduran border, one branch of the main range extends to the west and another goes off to the east. The inland plateaus and highlands are fertile, heavily wooded, rich in minerals and sparsely populated. The damp Caribbean coastal region is crossed by the country's larger and more important rivers. Lake Managua and Lake Nicaragua, running northwest to southeast between the western mountains and the Pacific coast region, cover 3,500 square miles and afford an important means of transportation.

The climate of Nicaragua is tropical for the most part, but it varies with the altitude. From the Pacific coast to the mountains, the average temperature is from 75° to 78° and up to 90 inches of rain fall annually between May and December. On the inland plains, the annual average rainfall is about 120 inches, with the rainy season between April and November. The Caribbean coastal area is even rainier, receiving about 150 inches of rain distributed more or less evenly throughout the year.

Resources—Nicaragua's abundant natural resources have been little developed because of rough terrain and lack of transportation. About 40% of the country is forest land, of which approximately 68%

is usable timber—mahogany, pine, balsa, rubber and tropical hardwoods. An estimated 54% of the land is arable but less than four and one-half percent is farmed or used for livestock raising—the country's two principal occupations.

Nicaragua has been a producer of gold and silver since colonial times, but other mineral resources have been exploited little or not at all. Gold production has increased in recent years as a result of higher prices and air transportation into the interior.

Corn is the most important food crop, and coffee is the largest money crop. An agricultural experiment station, sponsored jointly by the United States and Nicaragua, is expected to stimulate the agricultural development of the eastern coast.

Nicaraguan industries are small and are set up primarily to process farm products.

All the better highways and the 225-mile, government-owned Pacific Railway of Nicaragua are located in the more densely populated western part of the country. Most of the country's roads are unimproved, but an ambitious construction program is completing the 257-mile Nicaraguan section of the Inter-American Highway, working on an Inter-Coastal Highway, and paving the more important existing highways. The many navigable rivers flowing into the Caribbean are closed to ocean-going ships because of sandbars, but the waterways float timber rafts and small cargoes from the interior. There are two main ports on the Caribbean and two on the Pacific. Plans have been made for the canalization of the San Juan River which runs between Nicaragua and Costa Rica and connects Lake Nicaragua with the Caribbean. This would be part of a larger plan for another Atlantic-Pacific canal.

Air transportation has done much to connect the inland and coastal towns, and to assist the industrialization of isolated areas. A cross-country trip that used to require 30 days by land and water takes two hours by air.

Nicaragua's leading export is gold, which accounted for about 59% of all exports in 1942. Coffee shipments made up 25% of the total. The country's leading imports are cotton goods, machinery, chemicals and drugs, and other manufactured goods. The United States handles the bulk of Nicaraguan foreign trade, purchasing 78.2% of Nicaragua's exports and supplying 76% of the imports in 1946.

The monetary unit of Nicaragua is the córdoba, with an exchange value of 18.9¢ U. S. (1947).

Government—The constitution of March 22, 1939 provides for a bicameral Congress, a President, and a Supreme Court. Members of the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies, are elected by popular vote for six-year terms, one Deputy serving for every 30,000 population. The upper house consists of 15 Senators, elected by popular vote for six-year terms, and of ex-Presidents, who are Senators for life. The President, who is elected for a term of six years and may not be re-elected, is assisted by an eight-man Cabinet. The Supreme Court has five justices and two alternates elected by the Congress for six-year terms, with no bar to reelection.

General—The people in the western part of Nicaragua are chiefly of mixed white and Indian blood. The eastern half of the country has a number of Negroes and natives of mixed Indian and Negro blood. The greater part of the population lives in the area between the mountains and the Pacific.

Spanish is the language of the country.

Nicaragua followed the same turbulent course under Spanish rule as the other Middle American countries. The influence of three centuries of Spanish domination here was too strong to be overcome, however, and Nicaraguan culture is imbued with the Spanish tradition. There are many excellent examples of Spanish colonial architecture, particularly in Granada, the oldest city in the country, and in Leon,

which was the capital city for some time and was severely damaged by a recent earthquake (July, 1947).

The prevailing religion of Nicaragua is Roman Catholicism.

The Ministry of Public Instruction and Physical Education, assisted by a National Council of Education, supervises the educational system of Nicaragua. Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of six and 13, and the study of English is compulsory in the last three years of primary school and the first three years of secondary school. Agriculture for boys and home economics for girls are also required studies. There are 12 secondary schools which offer a bachelor's degree *(Bachillerato)* upon completion of the five year course; more than 15 commercial schools; two agricultural colleges; and three universities.

COSTA RICA

Population—850,000
(1947 estimate)

Area—23,000 square miles. (The area of West Virginia is 24,181 square miles.)

Capital—San Jose (pop.: 72,370; alt.: 3,870 feet), is located on a fertile central plateau, 102 miles from the Caribbean port of Limon and 68 miles from the Pacific port of Puntarenas. The city has beautiful Spanish colonial structures and low, modern buildings; numerous shady parks; and straight well-paved streets.

Geography—Costa Rica is bounded on the north by Nicaragua, on the northeast by the Caribbean Sea, on the southeast by Panama, and on the southwest and west by the Pacific Ocean. The 286-mile Pacific coast is more than twice the length of the Caribbean coast, and includes two peninsulas, one in the north and one in the south, which form gulfs of considerable size.

The high-peaked cordillera, running through the country from northwest to southeast, has dense forests on many of its eastern slopes and large, fertile stretches of pasturage on the Pacific side. The central plateau ranges in altitude from 3,200 feet to 6,500 feet. Numerous rivers which drain from the mountains through extremely fertile valleys have a vast potential as a source of power. Costa Rica's climate varies from tropical to temperate, depending upon the altitude. The temperature of the river and coastal plains runs from 77° to 100°; on the central plateau the thermometer reads between 60° to 76°; and temperatures from 49° to 59° are the average in the mountains. The heaviest rains fall in the Caribbean area—about 300 days a year. In other parts of the country the rainy season lasts from May to November.

Resources—Costa Rica is predominantly agricultural with most of the people tilling the soil of the central plateau. The dark, rich soil created by deposits of volcanic ash produces coffee of superlative quality, numerous vegetables and fruits, cotton, tobacco and henequen. Bananas, an important money crop, are grown principally in the Pacific coast province of Puntarenas. Cultivation of cacao, the third leading farm export, is concentrated almost entirely in the Caribbean area near the port of Limon.

Gold is the only mineral of any commercial importance, accounting for four percent of Costa Rica's exports in 1942.

The country's industry is geared to its agriculture, consisting chiefly of the processing of coffee, sugar cane and cacao, and the manufacture of wood products.

Costa Rica has about 528 miles of railroad, with a connection for coast-to-coast travel at San Jose. Although only an estimated 15% of the country's 3,280 miles of highways is improved, a program of highway improvement, including all-weather paving and completion of Costa Rica's 356-mile section of the Inter-American

Highway, is making steady progress. Air travel is developing rapidly as a practical means of transport throughout the country. The ports of Limon on the Caribbean and Puntarenas, Quepos and Golfito on the Pacific handle practically all the shipping.

Total exports in 1942 amounted to $10,576,997, while imports for the same year were valued at $12,287,391. Coffee is number one on the export list, accounting for over 57% of all exports in 1942. Bananas are next in importance, totaling about 18% of the 1942 exports; and cacao is third with more than 10% of the total for that year. The imports are mostly manufactured goods—machinery and equipment, foods, fuel and textiles. The United States takes 72.8% of Costa Rica's exports and provides approximately 76% of its imports.

The monetary unit of Costa Rica is the colon, with an exchange value of 15.87¢ U.S. (1947).

Government—Costa Rica's constitution, a modified version of the one adopted in 1871, provides for a unicameral Constitutional Congress, a President and a Supreme Court. The 43 Congressional Deputies are elected by popular vote for four-year terms, approximately half of them retiring every two years. The President, who is elected for a four-year term and may not serve two successive terms, is assisted by a nine-man Cabinet. The 11 Supreme Court justices, elected by Congress for four-year terms, sit as one body and as three separate chambers: appeals, civil and criminal. All men over 21 and married men over 18 who are self-supporting are required to vote.

General—About 80% of the Costa Rican population is white, a large percentage being of pure Spanish blood. The native Indian tribes are dwindling and now make up less than one percent of the total. The mestizos, mixed white and Indian, represent about 14% of the population, and Negroes, who live chiefly in the area of the banana plantations, account for four percent.

Spanish is the language of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica's post-colonial history has been relatively free from social and political strife, and the country has developed a functioning democracy with a minimum of internal disorder. Spanish traditions have outweighed native influences in Costa Rica's cultural heritage, and outstanding examples of Spanish colonial art are to be found in many churches and houses throughout the country. Indian art is best exemplified by the collection of rare ancient pottery in the National Museum.

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

In normal times, Costa Rica supports more teachers than soldiers and allocates about 21% of the national budget for education. Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of seven and 14. Of the 800 schools, 700 are operated by the government, and 688 are public elementary schools. A five-year secondary course is available at 10 schools, including two coeducational institutions and the English Primary School where all teaching is done in English. The School of Education at Heredia offers additional courses in psychology and education, and the National University of Costa Rica provides career training in the arts, sciences and professions.

PANAMA

Population—675,000
(1947 estimate)

Area—34,169 square miles. (The area of the state of Maine is 33,215 square miles.)

Capital—Panama (pop.: 133,738; alt.: sea level), with its ancient cathedrals,

modern theatres, clubs and hotels, and picturesque bazaars, is an interesting combination of Spanish colonial, Oriental, and modern influences. Located near the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal, it is one of the busiest and most cosmopolitan capitals in Middle America.

Geography—Panama is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Colombia, on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by Costa Rica. This narrow isthmus connecting North and South America resembles an "S" lying on its side, which, in some areas, results in the unusual phenomenon of the sun rising from the Pacific Ocean and setting in the Caribbean Sea. The country has about 477 miles of Caribbean coastline and 767 miles of Pacific shore. Panama is 37 miles wide at its narrowest part and 120 miles across where the Azuelo peninsula extends southward into the Pacific to form the Gulf of Panama.

Between the two heavily wooded mountain ranges that run the length of the country are many fertile valleys and plains covered with lush, abundant foliage. The Pacific and Caribbean coastal plains are cut by numerous rivers, many of which abound with a great variety of fish. The uninhabited sections of the country contain some of the densest jungles in the world.

In the green tropical lowlands, giant humming birds, multi-colored parakeets and snow white egrets abound. There are also alligators, green lizards, snakes, scorpions, a few tapirs and pumas and numerous monkeys.

The climate on the Caribbean coast is hotter and wetter than on the Pacific shore. The temperature in these lowlands averages about 80° and the annual rainfall varies from 69 to 129 inches. The temperature in the mountains ranges from 50° to 66°, and about 93 inches of rain fall in the inland areas each year. The rainy season extends from May to December.

Resources—Although Panama's plains and valleys are well suited for agriculture, the fertile soil has been little tilled. Only a small part of the land is under cultivation, but a government-sponsored program employing modern farming methods and machinery is increasing production of such essential food items as corn, rice, potatoes, sugar and coffee. The two most important export crops are bananas and abaca, which are grown principally in the western provinces along the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

The forests of Panama are filled with mahogany, oak, walnut and other commercially valuable timber and medicinal plants.

The more important mineral products are gold, manganese and limestone.

The Panama Canal has made the country a crossroads of the world, with ships and people from all nations influencing Panama's economic life. The twin cities of Cristóbal and Colón at the Caribbean entrance, and Balboa and Panama City at the Pacific end of the canal, house most of the country's population and handle practically all of the commerce and industry. Since most of the people passing through the canal stop off for a few hours or a few days—about 88,600 travellers in 4,727 ships went through during the year ended June 30, 1941—the tourist trade is an important source of income, and Panama accordingly has far more retail establishments than factories. Local handicraft articles and merchandise from the far corners of the world are sold in the numerous quaint shops and markets. The canal's cross-country services are supplemented by the Panama Railroad, running between Panama City and Colón, and the 50-mile Trans-Isthmian Highway – the shortest transcontinental railroad and highway respectively in the world.

The country has two railroads in addition to the United States-owned Panama Railroad. The National Railway of Panama operates 106 miles of narrow gauge

track in southwestern Chiriqui province, and the United Fruit Company has 155 miles of plantation line in the northwest province of Bocas del Toro. Panama's steadily improving highway network has many excellent roads that connect the major towns and will open large areas of back country for agricultural and industrial development. The Inter-American Highway runs about 345 miles from the Costa Rican border to Chepo, 40 miles east of Panama City. The country is the hub of Western Hemisphere air traffic, with scheduled flights between Panama and east, west and central points in North America, and cities on the east and west coasts of South America.

Panama's industries have suffered because of the country's position as a world market, and what factories there are cannot even satisfy local demand.

Panama normally has a large unfavorable balance of foreign trade which results partly from the volume of imports to supply the large retail trade. The difference between exports and imports is usually made up of money spent by tourists and United States personnel stationed in the Canal Zone. The most important imports are manufactured products, followed by foods and beverages, raw materials and livestock. The country exports bananas, cacao, live cattle and cattle hides, coconuts, gold and other mineral products. Production of abaca fiber (used in making Manila rope) for export to the United States was begun with American encouragement during World War II, when Philippine sources were cut off. In 1944, abaca fiber accounted for 22% of Panama's exports.

The monetary unit is the balboa, which is equivalent to $1.00 U.S. (1947).

Government—The new constitution, adopted in 1946, provides for a unicameral National Assembly, a President, and a Supreme Court. One Deputy and two alternates for every 20,000 inhabitants are elected to the Assembly by popular vote for a term of four years. The President is elected by popular vote for a four-year term and may not succeed himself. He is assisted by a seven-man Cabinet and a General Secretary who also has Cabinet rank. The President appoints the five members of the Supreme Court, with the approval of the Assembly, for 10-year terms, one justice being appointed every two years. There is universal suffrage, with the women's vote confined to provincial elections.

General—The racial composition of Panama is extremely diverse. Full-blooded Panamanian Indians make up about nine percent of the total population, some 64% is of mixed blood, 13% is Negro, 11% white, and three percent other groups. Some of the Indians still follow the old tribal customs and live apart from the rest of the population, but the traditional native crafts play a significant part in the cultural and economic life of the country.

Spanish is the predominant language but English is spoken extensively in the commercial centers.

Panama's heritage as a world center goes back to colonial times when Portobello on the Caribbean coast was one of the three transshipment points from which the Spanish galleons sailed with their treasure to the mother country. In sharp contrast to the ruins of the old port's fortifications; the colonial churches, buildings, sculpture and paintings in other cities; and the vestiges of a pre-colonial civilization, modern Panama has a lively interest in present day developments and new trends in contemporary art and literature. The country boasts a national museum, library, symphony orchestra, conservatory of music and academy of art that reflect the extensive cultural expressions of the people.

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

The importance placed on public education in Panama is indicated by a law which requires the government to main-

tain a primary school in every community having more than 30 children of school age. Primary education is compulsory between the ages of seven and 15. There are numerous public and private schools on the secondary level that provide normal training and courses in agriculture, commerce, trades, nursing, fine arts, music and drama. National and private universities offer additional training in the arts, sciences and professions.

COLOMBIA

Population—11,000,000
(1947 estimate)

Area—439,928 square miles. (The combined area of Texas, California, Massachusetts and Connecticut is 439,288 square miles.)

Capital—Bogotá (pop.: 434,240; alt.: 8,660 feet) is located on a fertile plateau between two towering mountain ranges. It is a charming, industrious city of contrasts, with colonial structures next to new office and apartment buildings, native public markets and modern shops, and stylishly dressed women on the same streets with Indians in native costumes.

Geography—Colombia is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Venezuela and Brazil, on the south by Peru and Ecuador, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean and Panama. Colombia has 913 miles of Pacific shore and 1,094 miles of Caribbean coastline. Three snow-capped cordilleras of the Andes chain run from south to north in the western part of the country. Between them are plateaus and extensive river-drained valleys that contain the more important agricultural and industrial centers. There are two other ranges, the heavily-wooded Serranía de Baudó running up the Pacific coast to Panama, and the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta which stands isolated on the Caribbean coastal plain near the port of Santa Marta. The eastern part of the country, undeveloped and sparsely populated, consists of well-watered rolling plains, forests, and jungles.

The climate in Colombia ranges from tropical to arctic, depending upon the altitude. Some of the mountain peaks are covered with snow the year round, and tropical temperatures are found along parts of the Pacific coast, in some of the deep, broad river valleys, and in the lowlands to the south near Ecuador. Subtropical areas generally extend from 4,000 feet to 7,500 feet above sea level, and temperate climate is found at elevations from 7,500 to 10,000 feet. Rainfall varies with local conditions including the altitude of the area. Parts of the north and west coasts have rain throughout most of the year; the southern regions east of the Andes receive considerable rain from May to December; and the upper valley and lower mountain areas have two wet and two dry seasons alternately each year.

Resources—Although only one-sixth of the country's area is suitable for farming and not all the arable land is under cultivation, Colombia is primarily dependent upon agriculture. The expanses of land at different altitudes produce a variety of crops for home consumption and export, the most important of which is Colombia's famous coffee. There are almost 17 million head of livestock, of which approximately 75% is cattle. About 10% are slaughtered each year.

Forests cover about 150 million acres, or close to 55% of the total land area. Wood products include cinchona bark, kapok, oak, pine, rubber, tannic acid preparations, walnut, and vegetable ivory.

Colombia's mineral wealth has made the country the world's leading producer of emeralds, a continuing source of gold

and platinum, and an important supplier of petroleum, salt and silver.

Colombia's industries are able to satisfy the local demand for only a few items—alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, cigars, cigarettes, chocolate and matches.

Transportation and communications have been seriously handicapped by the mountain ranges that separate the different parts of the country. The valleys have numerous rivers connecting the highland and coastal towns, and each valley used to be more or less isolated with its own highway and railroad net. In recent years, however, the mountains have been crossed by airlines, highways, railroads and aerial cable lines that have increased the economic activity in the upland areas, and facilitated the flow of goods to the three main ports on the Caribbean and the two on the Pacific.

Colombia is the second largest coffee producing country in the world and this product is number one on Colombia's list of exports. Petroleum, bananas, gold and hides and skins are next in importance and, with coffee, account for 95% of the total exports. Metal products, textiles and other manufactured goods are the more important imports, followed by semi-finished goods and raw materials. The United States is Colombia's biggest customer and supplier, absorbing approximately 81% of exports and providing about 72% of imports in 1946.

The peso is the monetary unit with an exchange value of about 56.96¢ U.S. (1947).

Government—The constitution of 1886, as amended, provided for a bicameral Congress, a President, and a Supreme Court. One Senator for every 120,000 inhabitants is elected for a four-year term by the department assemblies, and one representative for every 50,000 people is elected for a two-year term by popular vote. The Chief Executive is elected by popular vote for a term of four years and may not serve two successive terms. He is assisted by a 10-man Cabinet. There are at least nine Supreme Court judges, proposed by the President and elected by Congress for five-year terms that may be renewed indefinitely. The country is divided into 14 departments, four territories or *intendencias*, and six special districts or *comisarías*. Governors of the departments and commissioners of the territories and districts are appointed by the President.

General—Most of Colombia's people live in the mountainous part of the country, in the sub-tropical and temperate climates. About seven percent of the population is Indian (almost 400 tribes), five percent is Negro, 20% is white, and about 68% is of mixed blood.

Spanish is the language in general use.

Colombia has been a fountainhead of Middle American culture since pre-colonial times. Although the influence of the ancient Incas of Peru and the Talamancans of Panama may be noticed in some of the art work of the aboriginal Colombians, their architecture, ceramics, metal work and sculpture show imagination, originality and remarkable skill. The powerful religious influence of the Spaniards dominated three centuries of Colombian life. Numerous churches located throughout the country are treasure houses of colonial art, containing exquisite gold and enamel work, jewelry, paintings and sculpture.

After the independence movement in the early nineteenth century, Colombian literature kept its roots in native traditions, but followed the romantic and humanistic trends that developed in other parts of the world. Colombia's rich cultural heritage is very much in evidence on the contemporary scene where creative work is being done in all fields of expression in both modern and classical forms.

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

Public education in Colombia has received considerable attention since

colonial times. The early monastic orders established many elementary schools, seminaries and colleges which did much to foster a national cultural interest. Education today is free but not compulsory, and the government is using every available means, such as radio programs, popular lectures, and traveling schools and libraries, to educate the young and old alike. There are 10 major colleges and universities, and academies or societies of engineering, geography, history, jurisprudence, letters, medicine and science.

C U B A

Population—4,777,284
(1947 estimate)

Area—44,164 square miles. (The area of Pennsylvania is 45,333 square miles.)

Capital—Havana (pop.: 659,883; alt.: sea level) is the commercial metropolis of the country and the largest city in the West Indies. It presents a mixed modern and ancient picture with numerous buildings that were constructed centuries apart, an excellent natural harbor, and beautiful parks Havana's historic landmarks and picturesque charm attract thousands of tourists every year.

Geography—Cuba, "the pearl of the Antilles", is a long, narrow island with the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Strait and the Atlantic Ocean on the north, the Windward Passage on the east, the Caribbean Sea on the south, and the Yucatan Strait on the west. Florida is about 100 miles to the north; Haiti is on the east side of the 50-mile wide Windward Passage; Jamaica lies about 50 miles to the south; and the Yucatan Peninsula is 130 miles to the west. Cuba itself is 730 miles long, from 25 to 120 miles wide, and has about 2,500 miles of coastline.

Cuba's mountains, comprising about 25% of the total area, are located in the eastern, western and central parts of the island. There are many natural harbors along the extensive coast, and numerous rivers, few of which are navigable. The country has dense forests, and fertile valleys and plains with rich alluvial soil.

The climate is tempered by the prevailing winds, which give Cuba a somewhat lower average temperature than the same latitudes in Mexico. The days are usually warm or hot and the nights are cool. The temperature ranges from 45° in the cool, dry months to 100° in the hot, wet months, May through November.

Resources—Cuba is the world's largest producer of cane sugar, which is grown all over the island, on about half of the cultivated land. Tobacco, the number two agricultural product, may also be grown in all parts of the island, but the western province of Pinar Del Rio produces about 40% of the total crop, including the finest quality tobacco in the world. Tropical fruits and winter vegetables are the next most important crops, followed by coffee, cacao and henequen. Livestock and poultry raising provide meat and dairy products for home consumption and export, as well as hides and skins for the tanneries.

The forests of the island contain a wealth of hardwoods, dyewoods and cabinet woods—mahogany, ebony, cedar and rosewood, for example—and produce charcoal, fibers, gums, resins and oils. Cuba is also rich in mineral resources which have been only partially developed. There are extensive deposits of copper, iron, asphalt and gold, as well as manganese, chrome, nickel and petroleum. In addition, the country produces considerable quantities of salt.

Cuba's industries are keyed primarily to its agricultural products. There are about 156 sugar mills which process sugar cane, 27 large tobacco factories, and consider-

able manufacture of leather goods and candy. Cuba's famous rum is a by-product of its sugar cane industry. The best known of several brands, Bacardi, is produced in Santiago in the world's largest rum distillery.

Cuba's transportation facilities are quite adequate, with about 3,800 miles of public and private railroads and more than 3,500 miles of roads and highways, including the Central Highway which runs almost the entire length of the island. Buses and trains travel to all parts of the country. There are about 40 weekly round-trip commercial air flights between Miami and Cuba; international air service with Europe and the Americas; and domestic flights among 10 of Cuba's major cities. Havana is a principal port of call for steamships connecting the east coast of the United States with the Caribbean region, Panama, and South America.

The United States is Cuba's largest customer and supplier, and also accounts for the bulk of the island's important tourist trade. Under existing agreements, the greater part of the sugar crop goes to the United States; most of the fruits and vegetables and about half of the tobacco exports follow the same route. In 1943, Cuba's imports were $177,436,346, and exports totaled $350,623,767. Of this, the United States supplied 78% of the imports and bought 85.7% of the exports.

The monetary unit is the peso which is equivalent to $1.00 U.S. (1947).

Government — The constitution adopted in 1940 provides for a bicameral Congress, a President and Vice President, and a Supreme Court. The House of Representatives has 140 members, one for every 35,000 inhabitants or fraction greater than 17,500, elected for four-year terms by popular vote. The 54 Senators, nine from each province, and the President and Vice-President are also elected by popular vote for four-year terms. A person may not be reelected as President until eight years after the expiration of his term. The President's Cabinet has 12 portfolios but there may be four ministers without portfolio. The Prime Minister is appointed from the Cabinet. The judicial branch of the government includes the Tribunal of Constitutional and Social Guarantees which judges the constitutionality of laws, decrees and legislation. Universal suffrage in all elections is guaranteed, and a penalty is provided for those who do not vote in an election or referendum.

General — The majority of Cubans, about 73%, are descendants of the early Spanish settlers; almost all others are Negroes or mulattoes plus a few Europeans, Americans, Indians and Orientals.

Spanish is the predominant language but English is widely understood.

Cuba's early importance to Spain lay in the island's controlling position in the New World. At the same time, however, it was a target for freebooters and buccaneers who ravaged the coastal towns and left their marks on the gradually weakening Spanish control. The Cuban Americans were slower than other colonials in achieving independence, but their cultural development moved at a more rapid pace, with particular emphasis on poetry, music and the dance. With the advent of the republic, poetry became second to prose in the art of letters, but music became more than ever the most dynamic expression of the people. Cuban popular music, based on traditional Spanish airs and African rhythms, has produced such unique music and dance forms as the rumba, conga, and Cuban bolero and habanera.

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

Free and compulsory education is provided for Cuba's children. The country has 565 kindergartens, 4,227 elementary primary schools offering a six-year course, 37 higher primary schools giving a two-year course, and 24 secondary schools with courses lasting four years. In

addition, there are eight normal schools for kindergarten and primary school teachers; 1,200 rural schools; fine art, practical art, and trade schools; the Civil-Military Institute for homeless orphans and certain fatherless children between six and 18; the National University; and the University of Havana.

HAITI

Population—2,719,474 (1946 estimate)

Area—10,204 square miles. (The area of Maryland is 10,577 square miles.)

Capital—Port-au-Prince (pop.: 170,000; alt.: sea level), the principal port and heart of the country's business and commerce, covers about five square miles at the eastern end of the Gulf of Gonâve. The commercial district is along the picturesque waterfront, and the residential sections extend into the Cul-de-Sac Plain and over the nearby lower mountain slopes and foothills. The city has two large plazas, wide streets, good hotels and restaurants, and nearby mountain resorts.

Geography—Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. It is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the east by the Dominican Republic, on the south by the Caribbean Sea, and on the west by the Windward Passage which separates the island from Cuba. Two large peninsulas extending to the west form the Gulf of Gonâve and make up the greater part of the country.

Three main mountain ranges cover almost 80% of Haiti's total area. One of these forms most of the southern peninsula, and the other two extend across the mainland and the northern peninsula from southeast to northwest. There are numerous large plains along part of the coast and between the mountain ranges, the largest of which are on the north coast, in the interior near the Dominican Republic, and east of the Gulf of Gonâve. Haiti has one large river and many short, turbulent ones, one large lake and several small ones.

The climate of Haiti's lower altitudes is somewhat cooler than in other tropical countries because of the ever-present sea breezes. The temperature on the coast varies between 70° and 100° with little difference between summer and winter. The higher mountain areas are much cooler and occasionally have frosts. Rain normally comes between April and June, and October and November, but the seasons are not uniform throughout the country. The rainfall is heaviest on the windward mountain slopes and open plains.

Resources—Haiti's most important resource is the soil, which is cultivated on 15 small plains and seven large ones which range in size from 2,000 acres to about 200,000 acres. The country has a great agricultural potential, the development of which is being fostered by the government. Coffee is the principal commercial crop, followed by sugar cane, sisal, bananas, cotton, tobacco and cacao. Haiti's mineral resources include copper, gold, nickel, silver and tin. The country has not developed as far industrially as other Middle American countries, although there are a few fairly large factories and many small ones. Handicraft products, such as trays, bowls, handbags and table mats are marketed in the United States.

There are two railroads operating on about 160 miles of track which are used primarily for freight. The highway net has more than 1,800 miles of roads connecting the major ports and towns. Small boats operating along the coasts bring coffee and other products from the coastal villages to the larger ports. Haiti is normally served by 10 American and foreign steamship lines and two international airlines.

The United States absorbs most of Haiti's foreign trade, having accounted for 76% of the total in 1943. Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom and Colombia were next in volume. In 1943, Haiti's exports were valued at $10,628,356 and imports at $10,972,622.

The monetary unit is the gourde which is equivalent to 20¢ U.S. (1947).

Government—Haiti's constitution provides for a National Assembly made up of a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate; a President assisted by a Cabinet with a fixed number of secretaries and undersecretaries; a Court of Cassation, lesser civil courts, and military courts. The 37 Deputies, usually elected for four-year terms by popular vote, elect 11 Senators and the President appoints 10 Senators. Ex-presidents who have completed a full term are life members of the Senate. The President is elected by the National Assembly (a two-thirds majority is required) for a seven-year term and may be reelected indefinitely. He introduces legislation on public expenditures, under certain conditions appoints Deputies and Senators to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, and controls the administration of the local governments or *communes*. Only men over 21 have the right to vote, but women over 30 may hold public office.

General—Haiti has the densest population in the Western Hemisphere—about 254 per square mile. Although the seaports are the big population centers, more than four-fifths of the people live in rural areas on the arable plains, valleys and mountain slopes. The great majority of the people are Negroes, and almost all others are mulattoes.

French is the language of the country, but a local patois called Creole is used unofficially. This language is based on old French, with native Indian, Spanish and English influences. Haiti is the only French-speaking nation in Middle America.

The original inhabitants of Haiti, about a million Arawak Indians, were almost entirely wiped out by the early Spanish colonials. Negroes imported from Africa assimilated the remaining few thousand Indians, and after about three centuries of Spanish and French control, established the first republic in Middle America. Haitian art is strong in native traditions with a considerable French influence. Even the famous palace of Sans Souci, which with the Citadelle Laferrière was built by Henri Christophe in the early 19th century, was modeled on a French chateau. Contemporary literature, music and fine arts show a masterful handling of modern forms in the representation of island life and folklore.

The constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but the Roman Catholic church works closely with the state in some respects and receives a subsidy from it.

The educational system is divided into two branches, urban and rural, which are administered separately. Education is compulsory and free between the ages of seven and 14. There are 470 primary schools in the rural areas, and the urban primary schools number 167 public and 134 private. In addition there are about 230 parochial schools, several that are sponsored by Protestant denominations, and a few that are non-sectarian. Nine public *lycées* and 11 private schools offer a seven-year secondary course; vocational training is provided in 10 schools for boys and three for girls; and commercial subjects are taught in four private schools. There are normal schools for training teachers; the Practical School of Agriculture; School of Medicine; Military School; School of Applied Sciences; Ecole Apostolique; and the Institute of Ethnology. The Conseil de l'Université d'Haiti coordinates the work of the various schools of higher education. A government program of adult education is teaching Creole to illiterates.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Population— 2,500,000
(1946 estimate)

Area — 19,332 square miles. (Approximately twice the area of Vermont, 9,609 square miles.)

Capital—Ciudad Trujillo (pop.: 90,000; alt.: sea level), the largest city and principal port, was founded by Bartholomew Columbus, brother of Christopher, in 1496. The city's many colonial structures and ruins are surrounded by attractive modern office buildings and homes built after the disastrous hurricane of 1930.

Geography—The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola. It is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the east by the Mona Passage which separates Hispaniola from Puerto Rico, on the south by the Caribbean Sea, and on the west by Haiti. There are about 940 miles of coastline with numerous harbors, many of which are obstructed by coral reefs and river deltas.

The country has four main mountain ranges running generally from east to west. The largest, the Cordillera Central, cuts across the middle of the country and extends into Haiti. Another range runs across the northern part, and two smaller ranges rise in the south. The mountains are heavily wooded and separated by fertile valleys and plains. The part of Haiti's Central Plain that extends into the Dominican Republic is called the San Juan Valley.

The climate varies with the altitude, and to some extent between the inland areas and the coast. The usual maximum temperature is about 90°, with the average along the coast 78°. About two-thirds of the rain falls between May and November but the seasons are not uniform throughout the country.

Resources—The land is exceedingly fertile and produces a variety of agricultural products. Sugar cane is the most important crop and is grown all over the lowlands on about 14% of the total land under cultivation. Cacao, coffee, tobacco and corn (for domestic use as well as export) are the other significant commercial crops. A government program to modernize agricultural methods and achieve a greater diversity of commercial crops is stimulating production of bananas, cotton, rice and other fruits and vegetables. Livestock raising is helped by considerable year-round pasturage, about half of which must be irrigated, and the rather recent introduction of scientific methods.

The mountainous forests contain many valuable trees, the more important of which are lignum-vitae, mahogany, pine, juniper, satinwood and dyewoods. However, the commercial development of these resources is handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities and equipment. Minerals are numerous but large deposits have not yet been found. Gold is the most important sub-soil product, followed by copper, iron, nickel, petroleum, platinum, salt and silver.

The industries of the Dominican Republic are based primarily upon agricultural products, with sugar processing by far the largest one.

The highway net consists of about 1,554 miles of first class highways, of which the most important are the three major arteries connecting the capital with the larger towns in the west, north and east. In addition, there are many second and third class roads and dry weather country roads. The government owns and operates all but seven miles of the 150 miles of public service railroads. Private interests operate about 620 miles of track, mainly in support of the sugar industry. The country has regular air connections with North and South America and important points in the

West Indies. Port facilities play an important part in the Dominican Republic's economic life, but only the dredged harbors of Ciudad Trujillo, Macoris and Puerto Plata can accommodate the larger ocean going ships. Most of the numerous rivers are too rapid and turbulent for commercial traffic, but two in the north and two in the south are navigable by small craft.

Sugar and molasses account for well over half of the country's exports, and with other agricultural products made up all but about 11% of the total exports in 1942. The principal imports are cotton goods, iron and steel products, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, jute bags, gasoline and flour.

The monetary unit is the peso, equivalent to $1.00 U. S. (1947).

Government --The Dominican Republic has a bicameral Congress, a President and a Supreme Court. There are 19 Senators, one for each province and the capital district of Santo Domingo, elected for five-year terms by direct vote; 40 members of the Chamber of Deputies one for each 60,000 inhabitants or major fraction thereof, elected on the same basis. According to the constitution, no province is to have less than two Deputies. The President who is also elected by direct vote for a term of five years, is assisted by a nine-man Cabinet and nine other public officials who have Cabinet rank. Supreme Court justices and other judicial officers are appointed by the Senate. Legislation may be proposed by any of the three branches of the government, but bills can be passed only by both houses of Congress. Single men and women over 18 and all who are married have the right to vote.

General – About 67.6% of the population is mestizo, 19.4% Negro, and 13% white. Most of the native Indians were wiped out in the early days of Spanish rule, and the balance have since been completely assimilated.

Spanish is the language of the Dominicans.

When all of Hispaniola became a French possession in 1795, the eastern part of the island had not seen the last of Spanish control. Santo Domingo, as it was called then, became a Spanish colony twice more, and not until 1863 did the republic finally embark on its current period of independent rule. The picturesque and impressive relics and ruins of the Spanish colonial period are graphic reminders of the country's early wealth and importance.

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

The government's program to reduce illiteracy has provided more than 1,000 "emergency" elementary schools in addition to the 800 government-supported primary schools and the 18 that are partially supported by public funds. Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of seven and 14. There are about 15 secondary and normal schools providing four-year courses in letters, pedagogy and science, and 49 vocational schools. The 400-year-old University of Santo Domingo offers training in law, letters, mathematics, philosophy, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and surgery.

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of the eleven republics of Middle America
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Correspondence is invited

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